



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights and Measures




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Director of Weights and Measures

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DATE: November 8, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman, Third District
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Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, Second District
Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren 
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: **MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY ERADICATION UPDATE**

As the latest news from the ongoing Medfly eradication effort on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) fruit cutting crews today found Medfly maggots, the immature form of the Medfly, in kumquat fruit growing on a Rolling Hills property adjacent to the site at which a sixth adult female Medfly was trapped on November 3. On Friday, November 9, CDFA crews will remove ripe fruit from trees on the find site and eight adjacent properties within 100 meters of the find. The fruit will be destroyed by burial at a landfill. The stripping of possibly infested fruit serves to remove immature Medflies from the environment before they can complete development, transform into adults, and further spread the infestation.

Eradication efforts include the release, throughout the area, of 250,000 sterile male Medflies per square mile each week, four times the number routinely released under the Preventative Release Program in place since 1996. CDFA crews have completed two weekly treatments of Spinosad bait on properties within 200 meters of the two October 24 find sites and the one October 29 find site. One treatment has been completed on properties within 200 meters of the November 3 find site. Treatments will continue on a weekly basis in these four areas.

A quarantine covering nearly 60 square miles has been established in the Rancho Palos Verdes and Rolling Hills area, extending into the northwestern portion of the Port of Los Angeles. Restrictions against movement of Medfly host material packed or produced in the quarantine area are in place and compliance agreements have been issued to and signed by produce dealers and shippers throughout the area. Each export shipment transiting the quarantine zone for delivery to the port must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate attesting to the fact that the produce has been safeguarded against infestation during transport, as required by several countries receiving agricultural goods from California. Certified farmers' markets in the area, important sales venues for many small producers, must cover and shield produce from potential Medfly infestation throughout the transportation and sales operation.

I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
R. Doyle Campbell, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Public Safety
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer
Board Deputies

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